EMILY HOARD/THE NEWS-REVIEW

Workers from Umpqua Roofing Co. work on the siding of the Bonnie J. Ford Health, Nursing & Science Center this morning at Umpqua Community College in Winchester.

UCC health and science building ahead of schedule

VERA WESTBROOK
The News-Review

WINCHESTER — The Umpqua Community College Bonnie J. Ford Health, Nursing & Science Center is tentatively scheduled for completion sooner than expected.

"We're probably 75 percent complete," said construction project coordinator Lee Paterson, who's employed part-time by UCC and works together with three teams, including the design team, the UCC owner team and the construction project's general contractor.

Paterson said the anticipated completion date was Aug. 16, but has now been moved up to Aug. 8.

"We just started in June (2015) and we are not even a year into the project, so for a 35,000-square-foot building, that's pretty remarkable," Paterson said. "We are one of those rare public projects that's ahead of schedule."

In a project update Monday, Paterson said the building is erected with the dry sheetrock installed. The outside and the inside walls are done and covered. Interior painting has also begun with cabinetry being installed.

"The building goes up pretty quickly, but then all the finish details are what take primarily most the time," he said.

Over the next few months, work that will be completed includes all the interior and exterior painting, trimwork,

CONSTRUCTION, A6

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EMILY HOARD/THE NEWS-REVIEW

The Bonnie J. Ford Health, Nursing & Science Center takes shape on the campus of Umpqua Community College this morning.

CONSTRUCTION

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the finish cabinetry and the installation of furniture and furnishings.

"It's a fairly complex building," Paterson said, explaining equipment for the X-ray and dentistry labs will be installed in June.

"Those are going to be pretty intensive in terms of high-tech equipment installation," Paterson said.

The health center will be home to the following programs: registered nursing, practical nursing, medical mediation, emergency medical technician, dental assisting and also the sciences of biology, chemistry, geology and physics.

To support these programs, the new building will include a nursing skills lab, a dental lab, chemistry and biology labs, geology and physics labs, anatomy and physiology labs, classrooms, faculty offices, conference and work rooms.

The total cost of the project is $17 million, with $8.5 million paid by the state and another matching $8.5 million raised by UCC through donations, grants and pledges.

The construction contractor, Andersen Construction in Corvallis and Eugene, will be awarded $13.84 million for its portion of the project. The remainder of the funds will go toward items like equipment, furnishings, computers and insurance, with Opsis Architecture from Portland responsible for the design.

Many local laborers and contractors are also involved in the project, including companies like North Umpqua Plumbing and Knife River from Roseburg, and Woodgrains in Sutherlin.

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>
> **Lee Paterson,** construction project coordinator

"We have worked very hard to make sure that as much of the subcontracting contracts are met locally as possible," Paterson said.

Once completed, the new building will be a boon for the area in terms of educating health professionals locally.

"I think there are a lot of people locally interested in careers in the health and dentistry fields," Paterson said. "For them to have access to the most modern, up-to-date, state-of-the-art equipment and training facilities right here in our area without having to leave home is going to be invaluable."

Paterson believes the new center will benefit both people seeking careers and those businesses and institutions seeking services, such as the two local hospitals.

"Both the VA (Veterans Affairs Medical Center) and Mercy hospitals will now have access to well trained workers in their industry," he said.

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